United Nations E/CN.17/2011/11

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 December 2010

Original: English

Commission on Sustainable Development
Nineteenth session
2-13 May 2011
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2010-2011 — policy session

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Note by the Secretariat

1. The draft programme of work in the field of sustainable development for the biennium 2012-2013, which is contained in annexes I and II to the present note, is submitted for the consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development in compliance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, Monitoring of Implementation and Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).

2. In its resolution 65/244, the General Assembly approved the biennial programme plan for the period 2012-2013, which includes the elements of the programme narrative, namely, the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the sustainable development subprogramme (annex I). It also includes a draft programme supporting the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (annex II), which represents a non-recurrent activity mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/236.

3. The draft programme of work contained in the annexes to the present note includes, in addition to the programme narrative, a list of outputs formulated within the framework of subprogramme 4 (Sustainable development) of programme 7 (Economic and social affairs) of the biennial programme plan for the period 2012-2013.

4. The Commission is invited to take note of the programme narrative and to review the proposed outputs to be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, which will be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

* E/CN.17/2011/1

[69-70184-090110 090211]

Please recycle

Annex I

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

The Division for Sustainable Development is responsible for the subprogramme.

Objective of the Organization: to accelerate the implementation of sustainable development goals, targets and commitments in accordance with internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Effective review of and agreement by Member States on key sustainable development challenges and priority actions of the multi-year programme of work to advance implementation in the areas of forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism, mountains	(a) Increased percentage of Member States who express their satisfaction with the support and servicing for the intergovernmental process, including activities related to consensus-building, the functioning of the Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the partnership forum, the Learning Centre and the participation of major groups
(b) Increased accessibility of information, understanding and knowledge on policy options, practical measures and concrete actions needed for the adoption and implementation of sustainable development at the local, national, regional and international levels	(b) (i) Increased number of inputs by Member States into databases on case studies, partnerships, best practices and lessons learned (ii) Increased number of visits to and downloads from the website of the Division for Sustainable Development, to access relevant documentation, e.g., reports of the Secretary-General, background papers, statements, briefs, trends reports
(c) Enhanced technical, human and institutional capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement actions and national strategies for sustainable development in energy, water, natural resources, and sustainable consumption and production	(c) (i) Increased number of countries expressing satisfaction with advisory, technical cooperation and capacity-building services to achieve their sustainable development goals (ii) Increased number of national staff trained, resulting in enhanced knowledge and skills

Strategy

The strategy will include:

(a) Promoting and supporting effective, coherent and coordinated implementation of the sustainable development agenda of the United Nations, including Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, at the national, regional and global levels, with an emphasis on greater integration of social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through, inter alia, national sustainable development strategies;

(b) Providing substantive and effective support, including policy development and analysis, to intergovernmental processes, in particular to the Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that will be held in Brazil in 2012;

(c) Providing coordinated and coherent support to system-wide, inter-agency activities for the implementation of sustainable development goals;

(d) Providing technical and policy advisory services to Member States, including small island developing States, at their request, to enhance their capacity to develop, implement, monitor and review national sustainable development strategies, and action plans on sustainable consumption and production, as well as actions and strategies to manage water, energy resources, responses to climate change; and to implement effective information, monitoring, review, and reporting systems at the national and regional levels;

(e) Strengthening cooperation with major groups and identifying opportunities for their further engagement in the work of the United Nations in the area of sustainable development;

(f) Undertaking in-depth analysis and evaluation of trends in the implementation of sustainable development, including lessons learned, best practices and new challenges, and cross-sectoral analysis of sustainable development in the economic, energy, climate change, water, and natural resources sectors;

(g) Maintaining and improving transparent, user-friendly and easily accessible websites, including database systems for information on sustainable development;

(h) Providing information and summary reports on partnerships for sustainable development to the Commission on Sustainable Development and to Member States.

External factors

The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that Governments, international institutions, the United Nations system and other stakeholders give priority to the implementation of

Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and other commitments made during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Brazil in 2012, is also expected to have an impact on the Division's programme of work and its implementation.

Outputs/activities

During the biennium 2012-2013, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget and extrabudgetary)

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings:

a. Meetings and informal consultations of the General Assembly and its sessional bodies: meetings of the Second Committee, including informal consultations (40);

b. Meetings and informal consultations of the Economic and Social Council and its sessional bodies: meetings of the Economic and Social Council (8); meetings of informal consultations (Economic and Social Council) (18);

c. Meetings and informal consultations of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its Bureau: meetings of the Commission and in-session drafting groups (90); meetings of the Bureau of the Commission and related informal consultations (10);

(ii) Parliamentary documentation:

a. General Assembly: 7 reports: follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2); follow-up to the Mauritius Strategy on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2); report on the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015 (1); report on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (1); report on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All (1);

b. Economic and Social Council: report of the Commission on Sustainable Development (1);

c. Commission on Sustainable Development: overview report of progress towards sustainable development: a review of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (1); report on the review of forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism, mountains and interlinkages (6); report on Partnerships for Sustainable Development (1); major groups papers for the Commission on Sustainable Development (10); background papers on issues to be included in the programme of work of the Commission for 2012-2013 (5); report on the review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation focusing on the thematic cluster of issues to be reviewed by the Commission on

Sustainable Development (1); reports on regional implementation meetings (5); notes on the meetings of the Bureau of the Commission (10); report to the Commission on the programme of work and the strategic framework of the Division for Sustainable Development (1);

(iii) Other services provided:

Ad hoc expert groups: Expert Group Meeting on carbon offsets and sustainability of tourism: trends, issues and opportunities (2012); Expert Group Meeting on emerging trends and issues in marine biotechnology (2012); Expert Group Meeting on interface between National Sustainable Development Strategies and National Strategies for the Development of Statistics for localizing Millennium Development Goals in small island developing States (2013); Expert Group Meeting on Vulnerability-resilience Country Profiles of Small Island Developing States (2013); Expert Group Meeting on Indicators of sustainable development, measurement and databases (Fall 2013); Expert Group Meeting on energy access (Spring 2013); Expert Group meeting/seminar on Mountains (2013); Expert Group meeting/seminar on partnerships on sustainable development (2013); Expert group meeting on Innovative approaches to support co-benefits: forests, biodiversity and climate change (2013).

(b) Other substantive activities

(i) Mandated recurrent publications: *Sustainable Development Innovation Briefs* (8); *Natural Resources Forum* (quarterly) (8);

(ii) Discretionary recurrent publications: None;

(iii) Mandated non-recurrent publications: *Trends in Sustainable Development*: forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism, mountains (1);

(iv) Discretionary non-recurrent publications: *Carbon Offsets*: sustainability of tourism: trends, issues and opportunities (1); Emerging trends and issues in marine biotechnology (1);

(v) Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits: information press kits for the twentieth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (1); brochure on partnerships (1); brochure on major groups (1);

(vi) Special events: partnerships forums, learning centres and side events at the twentieth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (5);

(vii) Technical material for outside users: Marrakech Process website with the website of the Division for Sustainable Development (1); maintenance and updating of the partnerships, major groups and national information databases (1); database of programmes on sustainable consumption and production on the Marrakech Process website; maintenance and updating (1); maintenance and updating of the case studies database of the Commission on Sustainable Development (1); maintenance, updating and continuous enhancement of the website of the Division for Sustainable Development (2); maintenance and updating of national information database, including the global map of National Sustainable Development Strategies (1); maintenance and updating of Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSnet) (1); maintenance and updating of the website of Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean (1); maintenance and updating of the website of

UN-Energy (1); maintenance and updating of the website of the International Year of Sanitation (1);

(viii) Organization of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination and/or inter-agency meetings and activities: inter-agency meeting for coordinating the work of the United Nations in the area of sustainable development: UN-Water (4); UN-Energy (4); UN-Oceans-related issues (2);

(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget and extrabudgetary)

(i) Advisory services at the request of Governments: expert advisory services, at the request of Governments and in cooperation with United Nations agencies and regional commissions, will be provided to developing countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, for capacity-building and/or strengthening in such areas as national sustainable development strategies, green economy and poverty eradication, indicators for sustainable development, facilitating partnerships for sustainable development, strengthening of institutions and providing support to multi-stakeholder consultative processes that promote sustainable development, as well as energy for sustainable development, with a focus on energy efficiency, energy access, energy strategies and climate change and new and renewable energy resources and advanced fossil fuel technologies, as well as, inter alia, natural resources development, including water management;

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops: training seminars and/or workshops for and with national policymakers in developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition with a view to strengthening national capabilities in all areas of sustainable development;

(iii) Field projects: provision of technical services to Member States under country, regional and interregional technical cooperation and capacity development projects in the area of sustainable development supported from all sources of funding.

Annex II

Draft programme of work supporting the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The Division for Sustainable Development is responsible for the subprogramme.

Objective of the Organization: to accelerate the implementation of sustainable development goals, targets and commitments in accordance with internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Effective review of and agreement by Member States on key sustainable development challenges and priority actions of the multi-year programme of work to advance implementation in the areas of forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism, mountains	(a) Increased percentage of Member States who express their satisfaction with the support and servicing for the intergovernmental process, including activities related to consensus-building, the functioning of the Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the partnership forum, the Learning Centre and the participation of major groups
(b) Increased accessibility of information understanding and knowledge on policy options, practical measures and concrete actions needed for the adoption and implementation of sustainable development at the local, national, regional and international levels	(b) (i) Increased number of inputs by Member States into databases on case studies, partnerships, best practices and lessons learned (ii) Increased number of visits to and downloads from the website of the Division for Sustainable Development, to access relevant documentation, e.g., reports of the Secretary-General, background papers, statements, briefs, trends reports
(c) Enhanced technical, human and institutional capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement actions and national strategies for sustainable development in energy, water, natural resources, and sustainable consumption and production	(c) (i) Increased number of countries expressing satisfaction with advisory, technical cooperation and capacity-building services to achieve their sustainable development goals (ii) Increased number of national staff trained, resulting in enhanced knowledge and skills

Strategy

The strategy will include:

(a) Promoting and supporting effective, coherent and coordinated implementation of the sustainable development agenda of the United Nations, including Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, at the national, regional and global levels, with an emphasis on greater integration of social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through, inter alia, national sustainable development strategies;

(b) Providing substantive and effective support, including policy development and analysis, to intergovernmental processes, in particular to the Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that will be held in Brazil in 2012;

(c) Providing coordinated and coherent support to system-wide, inter-agency activities for the implementation of sustainable development goals;

(d) Providing technical and policy advisory services to Member States, including small island developing States, at their request, to enhance their capacity to develop, implement, monitor and review national sustainable development strategies, and action plans on sustainable consumption and production, as well as actions and strategies to manage water, energy resources, responses to climate change; and to implement effective information, monitoring, review, and reporting systems at the national and regional levels;

(e) Strengthening cooperation with major groups and identifying opportunities for their further engagement in the work of the United Nations in the area of sustainable development;

(f) Undertaking in-depth analysis and evaluation of trends in the implementation of sustainable development, including lessons learned, best practices and new challenges, and cross-sectoral analysis of sustainable development in the economic, energy, climate change, water, and natural resources sectors;

(g) Maintaining and improving transparent, user-friendly and easily accessible websites, including database systems for information on sustainable development;

(h) Providing information and summary reports on partnerships for sustainable development to the Commission on Sustainable Development and to Member States.

External factors

The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that Governments, international institutions, the United Nations system and other stakeholders give priority to supporting the

preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Conference itself, including advancing its objectives and reaching consensus on its themes. The outcome of the Conference, to be held in Brazil in 2012, is also expected to have an impact on the Division's programme of work and its implementation.

Outputs/activities

During the biennium 2012-2013, the following outputs in discharging the responsibilities as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Secretariat to substantively and logistically support the Conference will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget and extrabudgetary)

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings:

Meetings and informal consultations of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: meetings of the Preparatory Committee, intersessionals and the Conference itself (14); meetings of the Bureau of the Conference (6); regional and subregional consultation meetings (7);

(ii) Parliamentary documentation:

a. General Assembly: report of the Third Intersessional Meeting (1); report of the Third Preparatory Committee meeting (1); report of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (1);

b. United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: Secretary-General's report for the Third Intersessional Meeting (1); Secretary-General's report for the Third Preparatory Committee meeting (1); Secretary-General's report of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2); synthesis reports (2);

(iii) Other services provided:

Ad hoc expert groups: Expert Group Meeting on eco-efficiency and green economy: Possible options for small island developing States (2012); Expert Group Meeting on new growth strategies towards a green economy (2012); Expert Group Meeting on the role of electric mobility in sustainable transport systems for the green economy (2012); Expert Group Meeting on fiscal policies for a green economy in the context of sustainable development (2012); Expert Group Meeting on the institutional framework for sustainable development (2012); Expert Group Meeting on assessment of long-term modelling on sustainable development (2012);

(b) Other substantive activities

(i) Mandated non-recurrent publications:

Background papers and information notes on the themes and objectives of the Conference (6);

(ii) Discretionary non-recurrent publications: Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication (1); Green economy:

strategies for addressing climate change (1); new and emerging issues on the sustainable development agenda (3);

(iii) Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits: brochure for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (1); information/press kits for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (1); brochure on partnerships (1); brochure on major groups (1);

(iv) Special events: partnerships forums, learning centres and side events at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (5);

(v) Technical material for outside users: maintenance and updating the UNCSD-2012 website (1);

Organization of inter-agency and interdepartmental meetings and other activities:

Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs PLUS meetings for United Nations inter-agency coordination and collaboration in supporting the Conference, including United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies, regional commissions and convention secretariats (6); Department of Economic and Social Affairs Task Force meetings, with the participation of the Directors of all Divisions in the Department, special advisers to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Executive Coordinators (6); United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Troika meetings, including the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Sha, and Heads of the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Environment Programme, in their capacity as Chairs of the United Nations Development Group and the Environmental Management Group (8); Interdepartmental Task Force on Logistics, with the participation of relevant offices and departments (5);

(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget and extrabudgetary)

(i) Advisory services at the request of Governments: expert advisory services, at the request of Governments and in cooperation with United Nations agencies and regional commissions, will be provided to developing countries, to support national, subregional, regional and international preparations for the Conference and devising and implementing action plans and policies as follow-up to the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops: Training seminars and/or workshops for and with national policymakers in developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition with a view to strengthening national capabilities in areas related to the themes and objectives of the Conference;

(iii) Field projects:

Provision of technical services to Member States under country, regional and interregional technical cooperation and capacity development projects related to the themes and objectives of the Conference and supported from all sources of funding.